



The Rock Wren

The mission of Red Rock Audubon Society is to protect, restore, and improve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to educate the public about our unique Nevada environment.

Red Rock Audubon Society
P.O. Box 96691
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December 2010

Special dates of interest:

General Meetings:

December - no meeting
Jan 10th: 6:30 pm
Feb 14th: 6:30 pm
Mar 14th: 6:30 pm

Field Trips:

Jan 2011 - San Diego
Feb 2011 - Salton Sea
Mar 2011 - S.E. Arizona

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RRAS General Meetings

The Red Rock Audubon Society General Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month, except June, July, August, and December. Social hour begins at 6:30pm, presentations begin at 7pm. It's free and open to the public. Join us for snacks, conversation, education, and great raffle prizes. Meetings are held at Nevada Energy, in the Wengert Room, at 6226 W. Sahara Ave.

Christmas Bird Counts

Henderson Christmas Count: December 15th, Wednesday.

Call Je Anne Branca at 702-451-6843 for reservations, meeting time, and place. Please call before Wednesday, December 9th.

Ash Meadows Christmas Count: December 17th, Friday.

Contact Carl Lundblad at carl.lundblad@gmail.com, before Monday, December 6th, for reservations, meeting time, and place.

Corn Creek Christmas Count: December 18th, Saturday.

Call Hermi Hiatt at 702-361-1171 for reservations and meeting place. Meet at 7:00 am.

YOU can participate in the Southern Nevada CBC. All eyes are needed, please come and join us! You don't have to be an expert birder.

There will be a fee of \$5 for each person per Bird Count that you participate in to cover the cost of compiling data and printing your name in the next CBC issue of American Birds.

Reservations are required so we can plan ahead to cover the CBC areas properly. Contact the Leader for reservations or if you have any questions.

Bring food & snacks, water, wear layered clothing, and bring extra clothes to keep warm.

Please take pictures and please send us a write-up of your day for our website & newsletter!



Board Members

Officers

President: Bob Wilkin
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Unsolicited Mail, Telemarketing and Email: Where to Go to “Just Say No”

Tired of having your mailbox crammed with unsolicited mail, including pre-approved credit card applications? Fed up with getting telemarketing calls just as you're sitting down to dinner? Fuming that your email inbox is chock-full of unsolicited advertising? The good news is that you can cut down on the number of unsolicited mailings, calls, and emails you receive by learning where to go to “just say no.”

Telemarketing

The federal government has created the National Do Not Call Registry — a free, easy way to reduce the telemarketing calls you get at home. To register your phone number or to get information about the registry, visit www.donotcall.gov, or call 1-888-3821-222 from the phone number you want to register. You will get fewer telemarketing calls within 31 days of registering your number. Telephone numbers on the registry will only be removed when they are disconnected and re-assigned, or when you choose to remove a number from the registry.



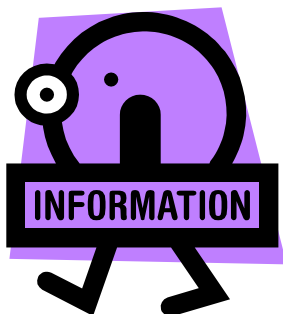
Mail

The Direct Marketing Association's (DMA) Mail Preference Service lets you opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial mail from many national companies for five years. When you register with this service (for a \$1 fee), your name will be put on a “delete” file and made available to direct-mail marketers. However, your registration will not stop mailings from organizations that do not use the DMA's Mail Preference Service. To register with DMA's Mail Preference Service, go to www.dmachoice.org.

Email

The DMA also has an Email Preference Service to help you reduce unsolicited commercial emails. To opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial email from DMA members, visit www.dmachoice.org. Your online request will be effective for five years.

Stay informed and don't miss out on any activities!



The Red Rock Audubon Society sends out reminders for meetings, activities, volunteer opportunities, and special events. Let us know your email address and we'll include you on our email news bulletins and the distribution of the email version of newsletters. You can opt-out at any time and we will never share or sell your email address.

Visit www.redrockaudubon.org and click on “Add your name to our e-news list” link, or email us at info@redrockaudubon.org, or leave us a voice mail at 702-390-9890.

President's Perch

Each One Bring One

When I became president of Red Rock Audubon Society, I had a few things that I ardently desired. One of them was to double the size of our membership in one year. We currently have 900 members, to double, we only need 900 more. This is an attainable goal. As a matter of fact, it is quite easy! The only thing we must do is "Each One Bring One". It is as simple as that.

If it is that easy, why hasn't it been done in the past? I answer this question with a quote from Paul J. Meyer: "Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon... must inevitably come to pass." The four elements for creation are: 1). Imagination 2). Desire 3). Belief 3). Action. So in the past one or more of those four elements has been missing.

IMAGINATION. Imagine what we can accomplish if we could grow our numbers to 2000, 5000, or 10,000. Trails could be built and maintained at all the Important Birding Areas (IBA's) in Nevada. When U.S. Fish and Wildlife needs a hand cutting cattails, picking up trash, or one of the many other worthwhile events that happen almost weekly in Southern Nevada, they would only have to make one call. RRAS could have a standing volunteer army of workers ready to make projects happen. We would have the people ready to man their phones to motivate politicians to do the right thing for the birds of Nevada. We would have more people to visit schools and introduce thousands of children to the exciting and colorful world of bird watching.

DESIRE. We all love birds and other wildlife. Sharing that love is easy, but we have to want to. Develop a desire to share your experiences, knowledge, and wisdom with new birders and everyone you meet. Being satisfied is not an option! Want, be hungry, crave, wish, and mentally dwell on your love for the birds. You will develop a desire to have others take this journey with you! We are given a life that is precious and time is our real wealth. What are your friends and neighbors spending their wealth on? If you have the most excellent piece of pie in your life that is bursting with flavor, moist, flaky crust and it helps you loose weight, wouldn't you want to share that with everyone you know!!! This is how I feel about birding!! Thank you to Don Lee for showing me the birds. I was blind, but now I can see!! I took photos of birds before I became a birder and still did not "SEE" the birds. Jennifer, my wife, just showed me a photo that I took in 1992 that she is digitizing to get rid of all the clutter that years of photography has allowed me to accumulate. It was on a beach in Texas near Galveston. The photo has hundreds of bright orange bills with black at the end. The bills look too large for the birds that carry them. They are the Black Skimmers. I took a few photos of them but did not appreciate what I was seeing until last Sunday when I looked them up in my Sibley.

BELIEF. One person brings one and now there are two. Two bring four and four bring eight and eight bring sixteen... We get to start with 900... In January, we can be 1800. In February... How many people are there in the greater Las Vegas area? Two million. So our membership of 900 is approximately four and a half tenths of one percent!! It is written .0045%. There are 2,222 900s in 2 million. If only 1 person in every one thousand that live here care about birds, we should have 2,000 members. Surely, you agree that more people care about birds and wildlife than one per thousand. How about one person for every 100 that live here, the other 99 doesn't care one way or the other... that means we should have 20,000 members. What if it is more like one in every fifty? Are we so jaded or think so little of our fellow man that we don't believe that given the opportunity and the vehicle, that not one in 25 people would help with bird conservation and habitat restoration? Just to the tune of \$20.00 per year?? That would be 80,000.00 people. THEY JUST DON'T KNOW WE ARE HERE!!

ACTION. Talk to everyone you know and those that you meet. Invite them to help the birds. Share your stories of birding. Take them to Henderson Bird Preserve!! Then invite them to join us. Volunteer your own time on a project and talk about it. Let people know that you can't shop, golf, or whatever you've been invited to on Saturday morning because you are helping the birds. Go onto www.getoutdoorsnevada.org and find an event, wear your Red Rock Audubon tee shirt. Donate your old issues of Audubon Magazine to a school, retirement home, or library. Invite a friend to our monthly meeting!

Don't give up! I went birding with my friend Don a couple of times before it "took". If they have "no time", give them the option of just joining for the Audubon Magazine and our Rock Wren. That is a passive way to help with conservation efforts. As they see what we are accomplishing, they will catch your enthusiasm.

In January, each one bring one!! *Submitted by: Bob Wilkin*

11th Annual Christmas Bird Count

The 11th Christmas Bird Count: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 to Wednesday, January 5, 2011



From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission – often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations – and to help guide conservation action. This year's count will help scientists understand the impact of the Gulf oil spill on vulnerable species.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition — and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.



Mid-February is chosen as the time for the Great Backyard Bird Count because it offers a good picture of the birds typically found throughout the winter months. It also coincides with migration for some species, such as the Sandhill Crane. That window of transition affords an opportunity to detect changes in timing for northward migration.

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada.

Project Feeder Watch



One backyard at a time, participants in Project FeederWatch are doing their part to unravel nature's mysteries - simply by sharing information about the birds that visit their feeders from November to April. The 24th season of Project FeederWatch began November 13, although new participants can join at any time.

People of all ages and skill levels can be FeederWatchers and do their part to help researchers better understand trends in bird populations. Participants count the numbers and different species of birds at their feeders and enter their information on the FeederWatch website at www.FeederWatch.org.

By collecting information from all these feeders in all these backyards, scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are able to track patterns in bird populations and movement from year to year, all across North America.



Nevada Bird Records Committee

Two new birds were added to the Nevada Checklist: White Wagtail and Fork-tailed Flycatcher. This brings the Nevada total to 484.

Field Trip Schedule

**San Diego, California:
January 18th – 21st, 2011**

Join us on our yearly trip (last year we ended up with 112 species) to the great birding area of San Diego. Some of the highlighted species we will be going for are the Clapper Rail, all three Cormorants, many shore birds, gulls, California Gnatcatcher, Towhee, Thrasher, and the Black-throated Magpie Jay (finally found last year).

We will rent a van and drive to S.D. early Tuesday morning, leaving at 6:00 am and returning by 5:00 pm on Friday. We'll have great places between here and there to bird along the way. Contact Je Anne Branca at 702- 451-6843. This trip is limited to 6 people, so call early for your reservations.

**Salton Sea, California:
February 15th – 18th, 2011**

We have not been back to the Salton Sea for a couple of years. We will check out the Longspur areas, look for Tri-colored Blackbirds, Yellow-footed Gull, and several other species. We should end the trip with at least 100 species.

We will rent a van and leave at 6:00 am on Tuesday morning and return by 5:00 pm on Friday. Contact Je Anne Branca at 702- 451-6843. This trip is limited to 6 people, so call early for your reservations.

Mt. Charleston 9/25/10

Submitted by: Christiana Manville

First stop on this field trip to Mt. Charleston was Keyhole Canyon off Harris Springs Road at about 5,000 feet in elevation. Although the 12 participants enjoyed the walls of the slot canyon, the birds were few and far between, with the exception of scrub jays squawking away in scattered pinyon pine and juniper trees. Other birds seen here included: Red-tailed Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, Spotted Towhee, and Brewer's Sparrow.

As we traveled up in elevation our next stop was the parking lot at Deer Creek Picnic Area at 8,300 feet in elevation. On the drive, several chukar ran across the road in front of our vehicles. Water in Deer Creek attracts many birds to this chunk of mixed conifer forest. The birds were very active here and 11 more species were seen including: Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Our final stop was Mack's Canyon off of Lee Canyon Road. The long bumpy drive along a dirt road brought us to our destination, a forested canyon with several small springs. Here we saw the following new birds for the trip: Stellar's Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak. This brought the total number of birds seen on the trip to 24.

Springs Preserve 10/02/10

Submitted by: Christiana Manville

Three participants accompanied me on this walk on a beautiful fall morning. Two participants were on vacation from Chicago, while the third had just moved here from the nation's capital. All had a desire to see western birds. We went to the gardens first and then headed to the created wetlands. Unfortunately quail and roadrunner eluded us, but we saw the following 15 species:

- American Kestrel - Killdeer
- Rock Dove - Mourning Dove
- Black-chinned Hummingbird - Western Kingbird
- Loggerhead Shrike - Verdin - American Robin
- Northern Mockingbird - Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Brewer's Sparrow - Red-winged Blackbird
- House Finch - Lesser Goldfinch

In Memory of Sally Mills (1936-2010)

Submitted by: Carolyn Titus

Sarah (Sally as we knew her) S. Mills passed away October 3, 2010 in Lafayette, California. Sally and her husband Jim moved to Las Vegas from the East Bay area in the early 1990s after Jim retired. They were passionate about conservation, education, and birds and especially about raptors. They had worked as volunteers for many years at Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. Not too long after their arrival in Las Vegas they joined Red Rock Audubon Society (RRAS), which was to become the beneficiary of their love of those birds. At one of our meetings, they presented a program on raptor identification which allowed us to hone our skills at sorting out this sometimes challenging group of birds. They also presented enthusiastically received programs about raptors to students at various local schools. Sally was a skilled fund raiser and devoted many hours to making sure that the Audubon Adventures program was adequately funded. Jim and Sally moved to Reno at the end of 1999 to be nearer their children. After Jim passed away, Sally moved back to the Bay Area where they had lived for so many years. We were all sorry to see them leave. They had certainly been enthusiastic members of RRAS during their time in Las Vegas. A memorial service was held October 30 in California.

Submitted by: John Bialecki

The passing of Sally Mills has caused me to reflect on events in the past that have involved Sally and her husband Jim and their involvement in Red Rock Audubon.

When they moved to Reno I could sense the loss at RRAS and felt thankful that they graced us with their presence for the time they lived in Las Vegas. We and I, certainly benefited from their knowledge, experience and involvement in the RRAS. I can recall vividly Sally's lecture in the cafeteria room at the Sprint building on Valley View. It was about raptors and was as good as it got. Also I had the privilege of visiting the Mills' at their home on 6th street downtown. On occasion it involved meeting national members of Audubon. The house itself was a showplace. Jim did a lot with that house rebuilding it to make a pleasure to visit. Sally, in the meantime, was trapping feral cats and may have lost count on the number she did get. Sally did this as she did have a lot of birds including transient ones that graced her yard. Typically the yard environment was very friendly to birds. Jim and I used to shoot the breeze about the C-124s he flew in the USAF.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to have know them both.

Christmas Birding In British Columbia

Submitted by: Bob Wilkin

Each year I try to get to Vancouver and Victoria to see the birds. I have been there during spring, summer, fall and winter. Each time of year offers a whole new set of birds. I have favorite places in and around Vancouver. When you fly to Vancouver, you



can stay downtown and walk almost anywhere you want to go for seeing the sights. You can even walk to Stanley Park. As you walk toward Stanley Park from downtown you can take the sea wall and skirt Coal Harbor. Pelagic and Brant's Cormorants sit on the pylons and posts and are sometimes joined by sea gulls many of which are difficult for me to identify because they are hybrids. Next you will come to a bridge which allows walking and bike traffic to pass under the busy road. Your birding experience continues just ahead of you to the left. Lost Lagoon is the first stop to make. You will encounter Mute Swans, Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Lesser Scaups, Northern Pintails, Great Blue Herons and Canada Geese. If you bring a little bread, the raccoons will walk right up to you and take it from your hand. During mating season, this is the best place to get a close-up view of the very interesting mating habits of the male Common Goldeneye. They snap their head back all the way until it rests on their back and then they snap it forward stretch it as far out in front of them as they can and then swim toward interested females. It is really fun to watch! The Mute Swans display and are pretty aggressive here. I have seen three species of Chickadees here, Mountain, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped. Lost Lagoon is also a Great Blue Heron

(Continued on page 7)

Congratulations John Hiatt!

From the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Autumn 2010 Newsletter:

On October 16, John Hiatt received a Life Time Achievement Award from the four federal land management agencies in Southern Nevada. John has given more than three decades of volunteer service to wild public lands. He was a key player in creating the Red Rock NCA and in getting wilderness areas designated throughout southern Nevada. He has also given thousands of hours of hard work on the ground. We are proud to have him as a longtime board member of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Thank you, John!

Christmas Birding In British Columbia ... continued from pg. 6

rookery. You will see Great Blue Herons standing really close to the edge of the lake and they do not seem to be bothered by human activities. Moving on up the coastline on the west side of Stanley Park I encountered Barrow's Goldeneyes. With some work you can get close enough to get excellent photos. I also saw Red-Breasted and Common Mergansers here.

Next, grab a bus or rent a car and take a trip up to Grouse Mountain. I have only been on the top of the mountain in the fall because I don't ski and I am old enough now that I break when I fall instead of bounce. The birds I have seen up there include the Blue Grouse and Stellar's Jay.

The next must see, do not miss, birding spot is the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. It is about an hour south of Vancouver on Westham Island. On the way to the sanctuary, you will see Snow Geese, Rough-legged Hawks, Osprey, Northern Harrier Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, more Great Blue Herons and Tundra Swans. Once in the sanctuary, Common Mergansers are well, common. We watched a Bald Eagle take a bath in the stream by the road. There are shore birds and ducks by the hundreds. The Chickadees are so aggressive that they fly right in front of your head across the paths in front of you. I did not know why they were doing it until I saw some other people put seed that you buy in the gift shop in their hand and the chickadees land on your hand and take the sunflower seeds out. That is quite an experience! The Wood Ducks are not nearly as elusive there but they are far from tame. You can get good photos of them if you are patient. Northern Pintails, Mallards, Hooded Mergansers and American Wigeons are all plentiful. There are Sandhill Cranes that nest here. There are warning signs about them being aggressive. The first time we were there was winter and the Cranes were so close that I had to back up to take photos. There are Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets year round. Numerous Warblers in spring and fall. Owls, Bald Eagles, and hawks are common. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs are generally easy to spot among the other shore birds. The Golden-crowned Sparrows were lifers for me when I was there. Red-winged Blackbirds call and are noted on the feeders in the sanctuary. Black-crowned Night Herons nest in the sanctuary. Downy Woodpeckers are common, as are Nuthatches.

Take the ferry from Tsawwassen to Victoria. And stop at Island View Beach on your way into town. At the far end of the beach, look for Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks. I saw and photographed the Harlequin Ducks and did not get to see the Long-tailed Ducks. I went there on a couple of different occasions during the winter and was unable to locate them... As luck would have it, I got home that year and two weeks later we had a Long-tailed Duck right here in Sunset Park!!

Make your way to Victoria Harbor. Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Buffleheads are found there as are many species of seagulls. I have photographed the Belted Kingfisher perched on the masts of sail boats. One of the most unusual birds that we saw in the harbor was the Black Oystercatcher. His legs were bright pink like they were made out of bubble gum.

Then there is the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. It is in an urban setting. But the trails and lake provide good habitat for wildlife. We (my wife Jennifer and I) were there on Christmas a couple of years ago during the deepest snowfall in 30 years. We saw Fox Sparrows, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Spotted Towhees, Winter Wrens, and a male Anna's Hummingbird. We saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker and Purple Finches. Trumpeter Swans were there and were sitting on the ice. The resident Mallards were putting on an ice show complete with sliding and falling for us. The Sanctuary has a really nice nature house with educational displays and areas to warm up and enjoy hot cocoa, coffee or tea.

Jennifer and I are heading up to Victoria again this Christmas to bird our hot spots and check out some new ones!! I will see you at the general meeting on January 10, 2011. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Submitted by: Bob Wilkin*

My Best Birding Vacation

Submitted by: *Billy Chapman*

Carolina Wren photo by Billy Chapman

I peered out the window as the pilot brought the airplane down to execute a smooth landing at the Nashville, Tennessee airport. Below, I could see two huge lakes, the Old Hickory and the Percy Priest, both surrounded by seemingly impenetrable forests with colorful leaves announcing the beginning of the fall season. Expecting a bit of coolness in the afternoon October air, I soon found out that the region presented warmer than normal temperatures. Perhaps, the birds of Tennessee would be quite active and ready to fulfill my hopes of a memorable birding vacation.

My wife and I established our home base in a lovely cottage, The Magnolia, one of three on a farmland located in Mt. Juliet, about fifteen miles East of Nashville. Here, I could step off the front or back porch and observe several species of birds, most notably three more life birds – the Northern Cardinal, the Nashville Warbler, and the Eastern Blue Bird.

Although it was somewhat challenging to break away from the serenity and relaxed atmosphere of our cottage at Rock Haven, we enjoyed day hikes along well established paths at two state parks, Long Hunter and Sanders Ferry. It was at these locations that I spotted three more life birds – the Red-breasted Nuthatch, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and the Carolina Wren. Altogether, we spotted sixteen different birds and an assortment of ducks and geese. As I reflect on this memorable experience – time with family, the friendly local people, great weather, a transformational place for relaxation, and a connection with nature, my wife and I have started discussions for a return trip.



Birding on Cape Cod

Submitted by: *Carol Sweet*

If you are lucky enough to visit Cape Cod, be sure to stop at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary about 45 miles east of the Sagamore Bridge on the bay side of the Cape. They have a modern Nature Center that contains natural history exhibits, a birding corner, orientation maps, and habitat murals. The center is used for educational programs year-round. Natural history cruises, canoe trips, bird walks, and workshops are some of their programs.

In the birding corner of the Nature Center, picture windows overlook a series of bird feeders. I was able to observe a sampling of the current bird species up close. A daily list of birds was posted on the wall and Massachusetts Audubon members were present to answer questions. During my visit on September 21st, I identified 36 species of birds at the feeders and in the surrounding trees. I especially liked the brown thrasher.

Over 5 miles of trails traverse salt marsh, pine woods, freshwater ponds, grasslands, barrier beaches, and tidal flats. I followed the Bay View Trail to the salt marshes. Numerous snowy egrets, great egrets, great blue herons, terns, and gulls were in the marshes. Benches were available to sit and observe the birds. I met two other women from New Jersey and North Carolina. The weather was sunny, the sky crystal blue, and the marshes a rich grass green. No matter what the season, this sanctuary is a wonderful place to observe wildlife and appreciate our natural environment.

The Nature Center is open daily, 8:30 am to 5 pm through Columbus Day and closed on Mondays after Columbus Day. Sanctuary trails are open 365 days a year from 8 am to dusk.

If you visit the area, try to stop by the Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans. It is huge. They have binoculars, scopes, books, tapes, videos, note cards, Christmas ornaments, feeding supplies, clothes and much more! You can tour the store, buy stuff, and get directions on their website at www.birdwatchersgeneralstore.com. A really nice book is "Birds of Cape Cod and the Islands" by Roger Everett.

You can round out your day with lunch on the waterfront at the Orleans Inn. I recommend the scallops. Happy birding!

Program Schedule

January 10th, 2011: Dr. John Klicka will present:

'Empidonax flycatcher research and other neotropical bird studies of Mexico'

Dr. Klicka specializes in genetic research to reconstruct phylogenetic hypotheses of songbird relationships and will present a discussion of Empidonax flycatchers to which he has clarified and discovered some new trends in Mexico. Dr. Klicka has also done considerable research on other Neotropical Migrants in Mexico and will present his findings and images of those efforts as well.

Dr. Klicka is Curator of Ornithology at the Barrick Museum at UNLV and received his P.H.D. in 1999 at the University of Minnesota. He is active in phylogenetic research including using DNA sequences to reconstruct phylogenetic hypotheses of songbird relationships. Such phylogenies, the cornerstone of modern comparative methods, provide a necessary framework for studying the evolution of various avian traits. Characters examined in this context can include behaviors (such as migration), morphological traits (such as size, osteological characters, or plumage coloration), or distributions through time and space (biogeography).



February 14th, 2011: Felix Owens and Donn Blake will present:

'Hawk Migration in Veracruz, Mexico'

Our own Felix Owens and Donn Blake will present their bird migration survey information from their recent trip to Veracruz, Mexico for the annual southerly hawk migrations. Veracruz is a huge raptor migration corridor for almost every North American migratory raptor due to its location and topography ideal for raptor migrations. Felix and Don have some wonderful images and video to present.



Photo Information: Some of the almost 300,000 raptors that flew over Veracruz, Mexico on Sept. 27, 2008 when Donn Blake and Felix Owens visited the area to witness the annual "River of Raptors" migration. No where else on the planet does a spectacle occur that approaches the raptor numbers produced here. This was the second largest single day count last year. Most of the birds in this kettle are Broad-winged Hawks.



What size binocular do I really need?

Binoculars can be classified as either full-size, mid-size or compact binoculars. The size of the objective lens (aperture) affects how large or small a binocular is. Higher magnification doesn't increase the physical size of the binocular.

Full-Size Binoculars Full-size binoculars (like an 8x42 binocular) offer the greatest light gathering ability and over-all optical performance.

Mid-Size Binoculars Binoculars with a 30, 32, or 36 mm objective lens are considered mid-size. Some people prefer their slightly smaller size, and a mid-size binocular gathers more light than a compact.

Compact Binoculars Compact binoculars (like an 8x25 binocular) are more portable than full-size models and work well during daylight hours, but not during twilight or in deep shadows.

Monoculars Technically one-half of a binocular, a monocular meant to be looked through with one eye. While not generally used for extended viewing, a monocular comes in handy when you need a quick, closer look. Sizes of monoculars vary: some are as small as a permanent marker!



Photo Album

Hooded Warbler at the home of Carol and Richard Cantino in Pahrump. Both a male and female visited for several weeks (probably because Carol was feeding them). Photo by Felix Owens.



Bob Wilkin working hard on the Corn Creek Birdsong Trail and out at Moapa.



Happy Hikers! - participants of the 9/25/10 Mt. Charleston field trip.



Do You FACEBOOK? Red Rock Audubon Society Does!

Facebook is a free social networking site where users create and customize their own profiles with photos, videos, and information about themselves. Each user has a "wall" where friends can post comments or pictures. This provides a simple way for friends to keep in touch and share pictures and news.

Red Rock Audubon Society has started a Facebook page. To visit us just enter this address into your web browser: <http://www.facebook.com/RedRockAudubonSociety> Be sure to "LIKE" us when you get there!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM

We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society and the Red Rock Audubon Society. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to Red Rock Audubon Society, Attn. Membership Dept., P.O. Box 96691, Las Vegas NV 89193. Please make checks payable to Red Rock Audubon Society.

National Audubon Society Membership:

___ \$20 Introductory Membership for Individual or Family (1yr). Members receive Audubon Magazine, the Rock Wren newsletter, and membership in RRAS.

Donations to Red Rock Audubon Society: (Please select one)

___ Ruby-Crowned Kinglet \$10 ___ Crissal Thrasher \$50 ___ Golden Eagle \$500 or more
___ Mountain Bluebird \$20 ___ American Avocet \$100

Gifts to the RRAS Permanent Endowment Fund: helps insure the future viability of RRAS.

___ Any gift is greatly appreciated. Make check payable to RRAS Endowment Fund \$_____

Subscription to printed Rock Wren newsletter Only: ___ Rock Wren \$10.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY RENEWALS should be sent directly to Boulder, Colorado in the envelope provided with your renewal notice.

C__Z P51 0Z (Dec 2010w)



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Red Rock Audubon Society
P.O. Box 96691
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193